



PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 16683-1-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

GERALD BLATT

Application No. 09/289,000

Filed: February 25, 1997

For: JOINT TREATING METHOD

Examiner: P. Prebilio

Art Unit: 3738

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

San Francisco, CA 94111
January 4, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

As a precautionary measure, applicant also requests an extension of time, if needed and if not separately attached hereto, and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the fee therefor to our deposit account in accordance with our standing authorization for such charges.

In response to the Final Rejection dated July 7, 2000, and simultaneously with applicant's filing of an RCE, please amend this application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 7, line 27, change "2C" to --3C--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

24. (four times amended) A method for treating at least one degenerated surface on a cancellous bone, the surface being one of first and second relatively movable surfaces defining a body joint, the method comprising the steps of resecting the bone to form a cancellous bone surface, placing a bioresorbable implant between the first and second surfaces

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